

The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

October 8, 2023



Photo by Deb Boucher

WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are an "Open and Affirming" Church



WELCOME!

To our worshipping community, especially to parents: God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! We welcome you and your child/ren. Children are a gift to the church and a reminder that the church is growing. May our church be a place where we give smiles of encouragement to parents!

Are you visiting with us today? We are glad you are here!
WHETHER YOU HAVE JOINED US BY PHONE, IPAD, OR COMPUTER

We celebrate "OPEN DOORS and GROWING FAITH"
"No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here."

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor – revbetsyccw@gmail.com
Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music – uccwestboromusic@gmail.com
Linda Borglund, Director of Faith Formation – lborglund53@gmail.com
Sue Menzel, Director of Bells – westcongmusic@gmail.com
Lisa Coffey, Administrator – westboroucc@verizon.net
Deb Boucher, Communications Coordinator – deb.boucher.15@gmail.com

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 9am – 1pm
Monday: Closed
Church office phone 508/366-2000

*General Church email – westboroucc@verizon.net, Church website- www.uccwestboro.org
www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough*

Statement of Inclusion

We, the people of The Congregational Church of Westborough, United Church of Christ, believe that all people are created equal, in God's image. "We are all God's children." In our journey of faith, we strive for justice and equality for all. We invite and welcome into our community and into the full life and Christian ministry of this church, persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family structure, faith background, economic circumstance, mental and physical ability. We say, and mean, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing our belief in diversity and inclusion. We seek to be a faith community centered in Christ, ready to proclaim the Gospel and seek to grow through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. We offer to each person acceptance and the responsibilities and blessings of participation in this congregation.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oct. 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (shown online and on the sanctuary screens)

9:45 AM

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“Veni, Spirito Creatore”
Chancel Choir

Taizé

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US

10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1 Cor. 12)

Charlotte Bramley

One: The Spirit of God is upon us.

Many: We are called to be God’s people.

One: The Spirit of God is upon us.

Many: We are called to be The Body of Christ and continue his ministry.

*OPENING HYMN #275

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Charlotte Bramley

O wonderful God, on this holy day, we have gathered together once again to celebrate Your presence among us; to praise You and to thank You for all You have given us. May this time of Worship strengthen and refresh us, and fill us with such joy that we cannot help but share it. We ask this through the name of Jesus, and we continue to praying using His words...

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Charlotte Bramley

Gracious God, we are called to be a joyful people. There are times however, when sin and sorrow grow, pushing joy to the side. We lose sight of Your grace and fall into despair. We are distracted by stuff and crippled with fear. We focus on our lack instead of on Your love. Lift our eyes Jesus and renew our joy in You. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEIVING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

(Children leave for Sunday School)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:33-46

(pew Bible pages 803)

SERMON

"Caring for God's Vineyard"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

*HYMN #452

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation: *Let us bring our offerings before God with thanksgiving!*
The morning offering will now be received.

Charlotte Bramley

Offertory

"None Like You"
Chancel Choir

Composed by Craig Courtney

*Creator of the moon and stars, of mountains reaching high,
Creator of the galaxies who hears a baby's cry,
Eternity, with all its years, stands present in Your view.
Alpha and Omega, Lord, there is none like You.*

*You make the wilderness to bloom and in the desert sand,
Provide the gentle, soaking rain, refreshing thirsty land.
You send the warming of the sun, the fragile snowflake too.
We bow in gratitude, O Lord, there is none like You.*

*You paint the rainbow on the storm and tell the wind to cease,
You reach out with tender hand, creation is at peace.
You speak Your Word and it is done, the universe obeys,
But we are free to choose, Your children sing Your Praise.*



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***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Charlotte Bramley

**Lord, You have entrusted us with much. We bring You now a share of what we have and ask
You to bless our gifts and us as we continue Your work on earth. Amen.**

BEING THE CHURCH

***CLOSING SONG**

“Mighty to Save”

Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding

JoySpring Songbook #15

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Charlotte Bramley serves as liturgist today.

Pam Faustine and **Elizabeth Kafig** are deacons of the day.

<p><i>Prayers</i></p>

Bereavement: Please pray for Deb Boucher and her family upon the passing of her mother Nancy Walker.

Continued Prayers: Nancy Reimann; Deb Boucher recovering from wrist surgery; Tom Erwin’s son-in-law, Mike Grundmann; Marketa’s friend – Paula; The Lord family; Carrie Halbert (wife of Nikki Halbert’s cousin); Cathie Achorn’s mom, Dee Mumby; Marge Butcher’s granddaughter Meghan Donovan; Betty Grays’s niece Heather and her family; Ilda & Jim Engle; Betty Simino; Roberta Di Terlizzi’s mother Donata; Dennis in hospice (friend of Deb and Rich Boucher).

Celebration: October 6th will be Betty Barclay’s 100th birthday!

Prayer requests: You can place prayer concerns on the church’s email distribution list at eprayers@uccwestboro.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today’s service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship. Prayers will remain listed for 8 weeks.

If you would like a prayer renewed, please call the church office.

Announcements

MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, October 14th the Men's group will be meeting for breakfast at 9:00 am. The guest speaker will be Town Clerk Debbi Ledoux. All men of the church are welcome. It is a time of FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD, GOOD CONVERSATION AND LEARNING.

FOOD PANTRY – OCTOBER WISH LIST

Thank you for all of those packets of oatmeal, pasta and sauce! For October we will be collecting Nutri-grain bars, jars of mayonnaise, and boxes of tissues for the cold and flu season. We will continue to collect oatmeal packets as they are in high demand. Donations can be placed in the white box at the side entrance to the church or in the basket at the front entrance. Thank you again for caring about your neighbors in need. The Mission Team

SAVE THE DATE!

We are scheduled for a Habitat for Humanity work day on Saturday, October 28th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The homes will be built on two lots at 521 and 523 Sunderland Road in Worcester. Construction is just getting started so we are getting in on the ground floor! Skills, no skills - all are welcome (ages 16 and up). Tools and instruction are provided. Sign-up sheet is in the vestry. Questions - contact the Mission Team.

A CONCERT: MEMORIES

If you would like to buy tickets for the concert on Saturday, November 4th at 2:00 pm in our sanctuary, you can stop by the church office during regular hours. The concert entitled "Memories" stars our very own Adrianna Baltimore. Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds will benefit the church kitchen renovation fund.

FLOWER COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Nominating Committee is seeking new members for the Flower Committee as its ranks have shrunk to 4 from a full cadre of 9. If you can help out and want more information, please contact Betty Gray or Dave Smith.

300th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

The Cabinet has approved the formation of a committee to plan a celebration for the 300th anniversary of our church. Cathie Achorn has been appointed to head up this committee. If you would like to help out with this please contact her by message or text at cell #508-380-8671, or by email at camachorn@aol.com. Please let Cathie know if you will consider being a part of this group at such an important time in the history of our church. Looking forward to a fun and interesting 300th year.



October 8th – October 15th

Oct 8 10:00 AM 4:00 PM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School Wedding
Oct 9 6:30 pm	Monday – closed
Oct 10 10:30 AM 7-8 PM	Tuesday Beaumont Service Bells Rehearse
Oct 11 9:00 AM 6:30 -7:30 PM	Wednesday Weaver's Guild Choir Rehearsal
Oct 12 6:30 PM	Thursday Trustees/Kerygma Rm
Oct 13 6-10PM	Friday Vestry in Use/Tom
Oct 14 9:00 AM	Saturday Men's Breakfast
Oct 15 10:00 AM	Sunday Worship & Sunday School